

*****July 31, 2009*****

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Friday, July 31, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Those present were:

Mayor Bill Lusk
Vice Mayor Susan Robertson
Councilmember Annette Allen
Councilmember Hershel Dick
Councilmember Paul Hendricks

Others present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers
Town Recorder Mark Johnson

Sam Powell was present and participated in a discussion of proposed rules for Town parks. Two proposals were made by the Parks Board – one from a majority of the members and one from the remaining minority. The primary differences between the two regarded the use of bicycles along trails and campsites. Jarred Thompson, Recreation Director, was also present.

Mr. Powell gave a history of the work that has been put into the trails and asked for the Council's support. The Council discussed the condition of the trails, location of campsites and related management infrastructure, possible specific trail designations, and the possibility of permit issuance.

Vice Mayor Robertson moved and Councilmember Allen seconded that the majority opinion regarding rules be adopted, subject to appropriate revision by the Town Manager and Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lusk requested that the Town research the possibility of having a dog park. Mr. Thompson agreed to perform the research.

The agenda for the August 3rd regular meeting was discussed as follows:

- Approval of regular meeting minutes for July. The minutes for this agenda meeting will be unavailable due to time constraints.
- Resolutions honoring MACC Director Karen Shropshire and the late Dr. Paul Nolan.
- A resolution approving the TML safety grant.
- A resolution approving a new contract with Tennessee American Water Company.
- An ordinance to abandon a right-of-way on Timberlinks Drive.
- The introduction of Barbara Storm as the new MACC Director.

George Davenport and John Mies of the Clean Streams Task Force were present and participated in a discussion of the Task Force's activities. Mr. Davenport reviewed the

history of the Task Force and its intended function. He reviewed the five subcommittees that had been formed to investigate impaired streams, explore septic system alternatives, create a sewer "master plan", review Best Management Practices (BMP's) that include recommendations for septic maintenance, and evaluate communication methods.

Mr. Davenport said impaired streams were evaluated, and it was determined that Town streams are affected by septic systems. The Council discussed septic system options. Mr. Davenport said septic alternatives are being reviewed as well as BMP's; however, a "master plan" for sewerage is the appropriate long-term solution.

Mr. Davenport then reported on the Communications Subcommittee, which researches options for involving the community, and he inquired of the Council as to how much autonomy the Task Force has in communicating with the community and others. The Council discussed options for communication, including utilizing newspaper circulation and designating a day for stream education. They agreed to allow the Task Force to communicate informally with whomever they need, but any formal communication must be approved by Ms. Rogers and Councilmember Allen.

Finally, Mr. Davenport presented a chart listing all parties with a stake in issues related to clean streams, including TDEC, the WWTa, and the Health Department, and suggested that the Council designate someone or some group to integrate all these parties into a group effort for resolving problems.

Ms. Rogers asked the Council's permission to attend a two-day federal funding conference in Manchester. There is no fee to attend the conference and the only cost will be for travel. The Council granted her request.

Ms. Rogers updated the Council on her research regarding the conservation easement at Rainbow Lake. She had spoken with Towns such as Franklin and Fairview regarding their easements with the Land Trust for Tennessee, and they, as well as the Land Trust, indicated their easements are not permanent. The land could be sold, but not subdivided.

Tracy Baker, Town Intern, was present and reviewed her work over the previous two months, which included development of a vehicle replacement plan, developing guidelines for the Safety Committee, developing a Recreation Department plan outline, and a citizen survey.

Loretta Hopper, Public Works Director, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the construction of the retaining wall along Palisades Drive to maintain the stability of the base beneath the road, which had been eroding. She reviewed the area's previous condition, project challenges, the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process – a process similar to bidding, costs, etc. She said the project was a success and no complaints were received.

Mayor Lusk noted that the American Chestnut Foundation is willing to supply American Chestnut trees to the Town, provided that spaces can be designated for them. Possible planting locations were discussed.

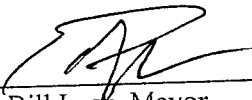
Councilmember Hendricks asked about the status of the sidewalk construction along James Boulevard. Ms. Rogers said Ms. Hopper is pursuing RFQ's from engineering firms.

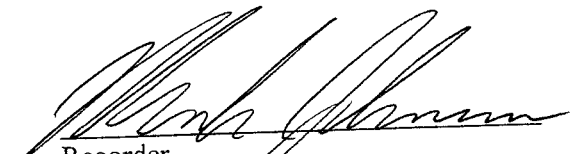
Mayor Lusk asked if the Town has information on adjusting the property tax rate for the effect of the reassessment. Ms. Rogers and Mr. Johnson said they expect to receive it in August.

Councilmember Dick asked when the Town would receive the deed to the MACC property. Ms. Rogers said an attorney is drawing up the paperwork now.

Councilmember Allen asked that someone peruse the EPA website for grant availability as she had been told that there were several EPA grants available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Lusk, Mayor

Recorder